Question 7: Pesticide Law Worksheets

Reference:
Applying Pesticides Correctly - A Guide for Private and Commercial Applicators
Unit 5: Special Environmental Concerns, Pages 7, 8, and 9

Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a Federal law administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the US Department of the Interior. The ESA makes it illegal to kill, harm, or collect endangered or threatened wildlife or fish, or to remove endangered or threatened plants from areas under Federal jurisdiction. It also requires other Federal agencies to ensure that any action they carry out or authorize is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or to destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat. As a result, EPA must ensure that no registered pesticide use is likely to jeopardize the survival of any endangered or threatened species. The FWS has the authority to designate land and water species as endangered or threatened.

Under the Endangered Species Act, it is a Federal offense to use any pesticide in a manner that results in the death of a member of an endangered species. Prior to making applications, the user must determine that endangered species are not located in or immediately adjacent to the site to be treated. If the users are in doubt whether or not endangered species may be affected, they should contact the regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office or personnel of the State Fish and Game Office.

Hundreds of animals, including fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and aquatic invertebrates, and thousands of plants have been named as endangered or threatened species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Some of these animals and plants are well known, such as the California condor. Others are little known creatures that may rarely be seen by anyone except trained experts. Regardless of the size or apparent significance of these endangered species, it is important that each is allowed to survive. Mankind's well being depends on maintaining the variety and differences among living things, and the complex ways they interact.